

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL DOUALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1704
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, CM
SUBJ: RECENT OIL EXPLORATION DEVELOPMENTS IN DOUALA AREA

REF: (A) DOUALA 38, (B) YAOUNDE 640

1. DURING VISIT TO KOLE FIELD BY AMBASSADOR SMYTH ON MARCH 9.
ELF/SEREPICI DIRECTOR HENERAL J.C.VAUCHEZ STATED THAT IN NEAR

FUTURE PRODUCTION WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM DAILY RATE OF
10,000 BARRELS TO 12,000 BARRELS. (COMMENT: THIS OFFICIAL
GURC LNNE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND ACTUAL PRODUCTION MAY BE SOMEWHAT
MORE). VAUCHEZ POINTED OUT AN ELF/SEREPICA RIG 16 KILOMETERS
TO THE NORTH AND STATED THAT WHEN THIS SITE GOES INTO PRODUCTION
WITHIN THE YEAR THAT THE OIL PRODUCTION IN THE CONCESSION WOULD
BE MORE THAN DOUBLED. WHEN ASKED IF CAMEROON PRODUCTION SITES
WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY ALL THE CURDE REQUIRED BY THE PROPOSED
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POINTE LIMBOH REFINERY (1.5 MILLION TON CAPACITY), VAUCHEZ ALLOWED
THAT THERE CERTAINLY WAS SUCH A CAPABILITY. AT THE TIME OF THE

VISIT A SHELL TANKER WAS LOADING 58,70, TONS DESTINED FOR HOUSTON.

2. GULF IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN ACTIVE EXPLORATORY DRILLING
PROGRAM IN THE DOUALA BASIN. ITFIRST ATTEMPT NORTH OF DOUALA

IN THE MUNGO RIVER AREA (CONCESSION # PH24; BLOCK 1) RESULTED IN A DRY WELL. GULF SHARES EQUAL RIGHTS TO THIS CONCESSION WITH SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL. THE DRILLING RIG HAS SINCE BEEN MOVED SOUTH OF DOUALA TO KWAKWA (CONCESSION #33) WHERE GULF (60 PERCENT) SHARES THE CONCESSION WITH DENISON MINES (22 PERCENT), COASTAL STATES GAS CORPORATION (10 PERCENT) AND OCEANIC OF WEST AFRICA (8 PERCENT). GULF DIRECTOR GENERAL

KENNETH ATTRELL STATED THAT GULF IS PLANNING TO SPEND ABOUT 5 MILLION DOLLARS AT KWAKWA IN EVALUATION. THIS CONCESSION ALSO COVERS THE SOUELLABA PENINSULA. ACCORDING TO ATTRELL, GULF HAS FOUND AREAS ON THE PENINSULA WHERE OIL AND NATURAL GAS ARE

LITERALLY OOZING OUT OF THE GROUND. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS AREA IS THAT IT IS RIGHT ON THE CONCESSION BOUNDARY, AND GULF WILL HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ITS NEIGHBOR (ANADARKO

PRODUCTION CO.) AS TO HOW THIS OIL RESERVOIR WILL BE EXPLOITED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SOUELLABA PENINSULA HAS BEEN EXPLORED IN THE PAST BY ELF/SEREPKA, AND WAS LATER ABANDONED. GULF IS ALSO THE OPERATOR OF THE GULF/DAMSON-LOKELE BLOCK (CONCESSION # PH24, BLOCK 2) WHICH BORDERS ON THE NIGERIAN/CAMEROON BOUNDARY LINE. REPORTEDLY THERE ARE PLANS TO BEGIN A SEISMIC SURVEY. GULF HAS A 50 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE CONCESSION AND ITS PARTNERS ARE REPORTED TO BE DAMSON OIL (22.5 PERCENT), DIXEL RESOURCES (11.25 PERCENT), ARACCA PETROLEUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(5.625 PERCENT), PEYTO EXPLORATION (3.375 PERCENT), OXOCO INTERNATIONAL (4.75 PERCENT) AND SUNLITE (2.5 PERCENT).

3. PECTEN IS SENDING A TEAM OF GEOPHYSICISTS TO DOUALA TO LOOK OVER THE ELF/SEREPKA-PECTEN KOLE FIELD OPERATION THE WEEK

OF MARCH 20.
SMYTHE

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